CHAPTER 7: CHINATOWN 6

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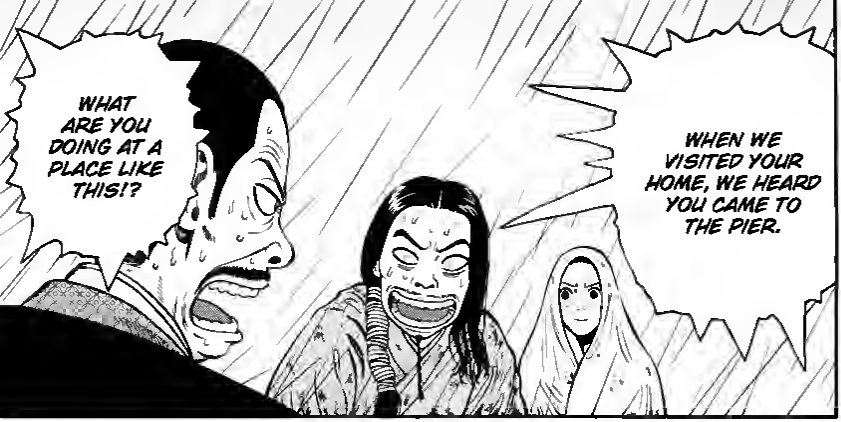
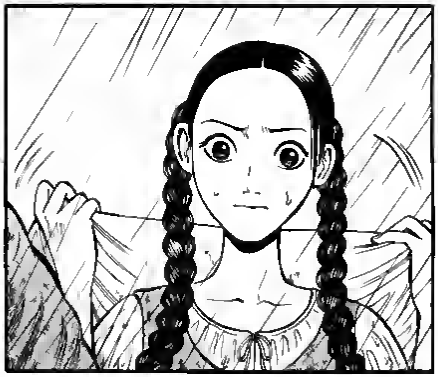

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT A PLACE LIKE THIS!?
WHEN WE VISITED YOUR HOME, WE HEARD YOU CAME TO THE PIER.

XIA YI...

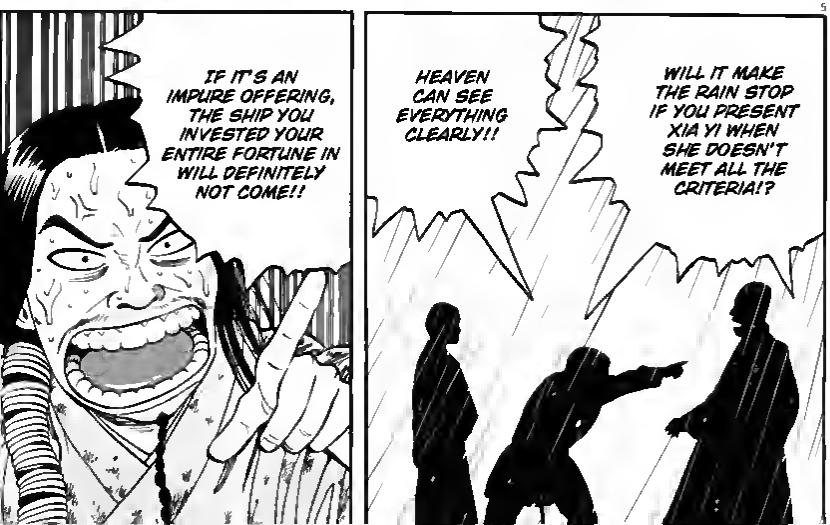


TOWN MAYOR, PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE!!
DON'T RESENT ME!!
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT MY DAUGHTER'S FOREHEAD!!
EVERYTHING WAS DECIDED BY THE GREAT OLD MAN!!

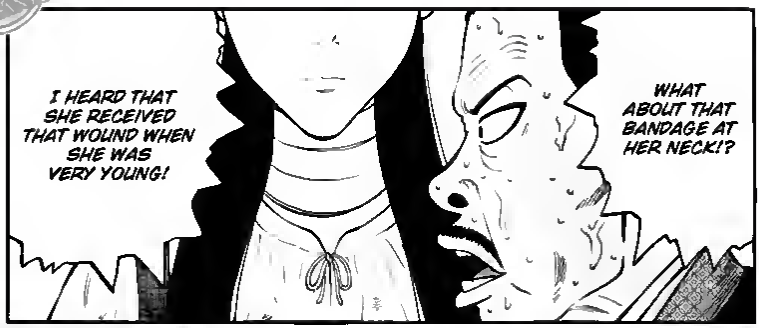
THEY HIT HER WITH STONES!!
A WOUND CAUSED BY THE ENGLISH!!
THIS IS...

OF THE FIVE CONDITIONS STATES THAT...
THE SACRIFICE "MUST NOT HAVE ANY MOLES, BIRTHMARKS, OR WOUNDS"!!

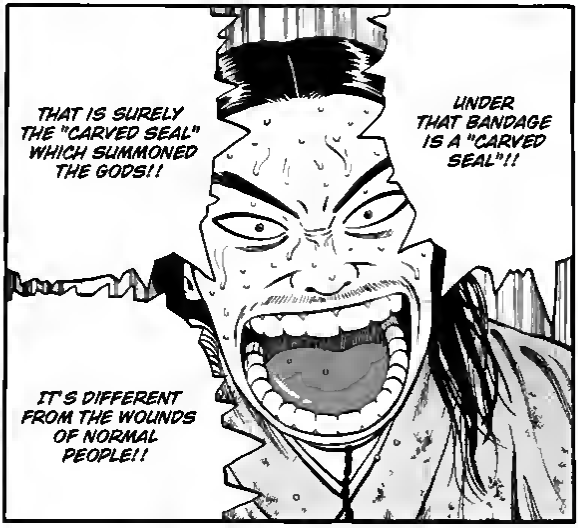
MY DAUGHTER DOES NOT MEET THAT REQUIRE-MENT!!
NO, NO, THIS IS A LEGITIMATE WOUND!!
IF THIS IS TO DELAY THIS PROCEED-ING...
I-INDEED, IT'S A WOUND, BUT THAT WOUND..

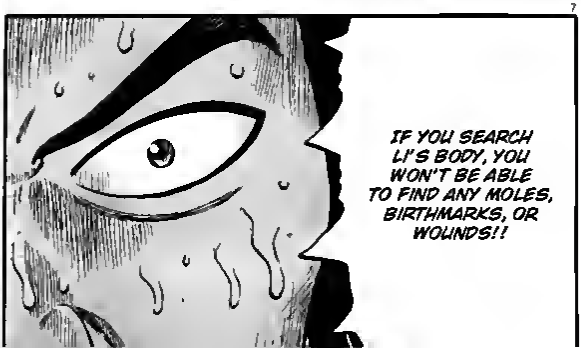

IF IT'S AN IMPURE OFFERING, THE SHIP YOU INVESTED YOUR ENTIRE FORTUNE IN WILL DEFINITELY NOT COME!!
HEAVEN CAN SEE EVERYTHING CLEARLY!!
WILL IT MAKE THE RAIN STOP IF YOU PRESENT XIA YI WHEN SHE DOESN'T MEET ALL THE CRITERIA!?

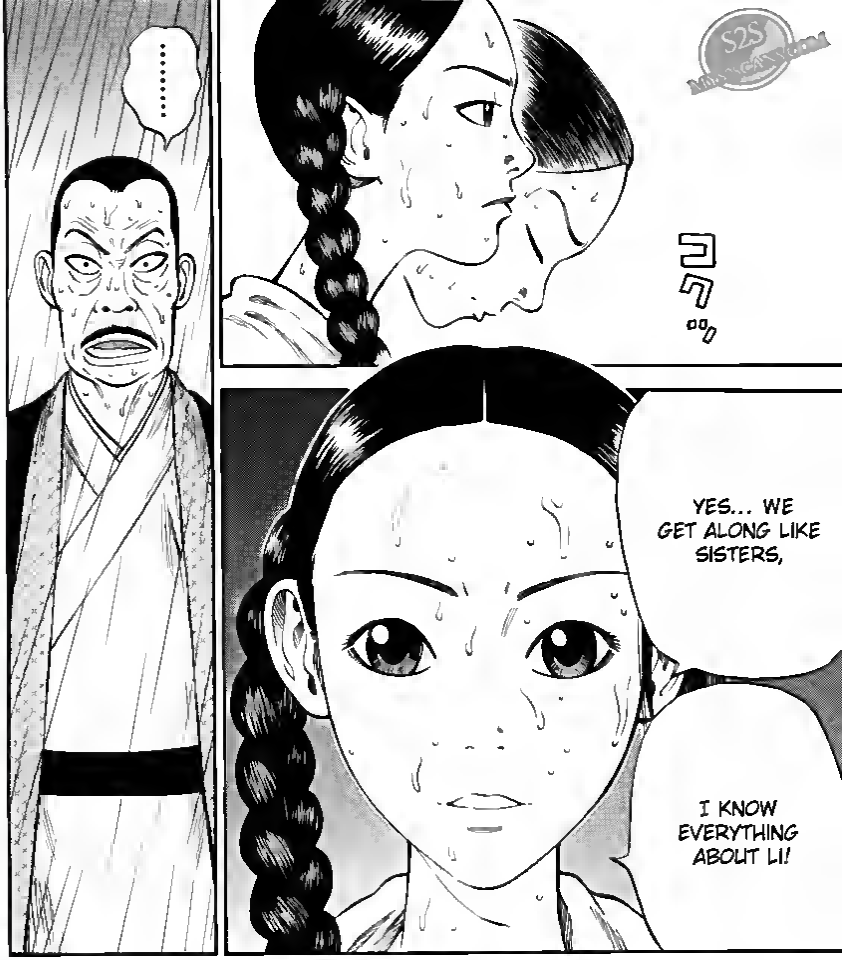
LI IS FINE, ISN'T SHE?
.....
YOU, TOO, ARE JUST THINKING ABOUT YOUR OWN CHILD ...
THAT GIRL FULFILLS ALL THE CONDITIONS!
HUH?
A VIRGIN!!
BEAUTIFUL!
IN HER TEENS!!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
AND HER HAIR IS LONG!!


I HEARD THAT SHE RECEIVED THAT WOUND WHEN SHE WAS VERY YOUNG!
WHAT ABOUT THAT BANDAGE AT HER NECK!?

RIGHT, XIA YI!?


THAT IS SURELY THE "CARVED SEAL" WHICH SUMMONED THE GODS!!
UNDER THAT BANDAGE IS A "CARVED SEAL"!!
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE WOUNDS OF NORMAL PEOPLE!!


IF YOU SEARCH LI'S BODY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND ANY MOLES, BIRTHMARKS, OR WOUNDS!!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YES... WE GET ALONG LIKE SISTERS,
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT LI!

THAT GIRL IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF THIS DISASTER, WITHOUT A DOUBT!!
TOWN MAYOR, THIS UNUSUAL CONTINUOUS DOWNPOUR WAS BROUGHT TO US BY THAT FAMILY WHO BROUGHT THAT GIRL TO THIS LAND!!

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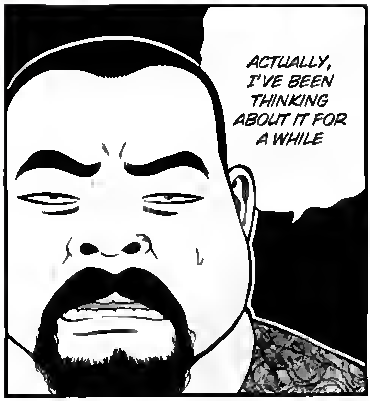
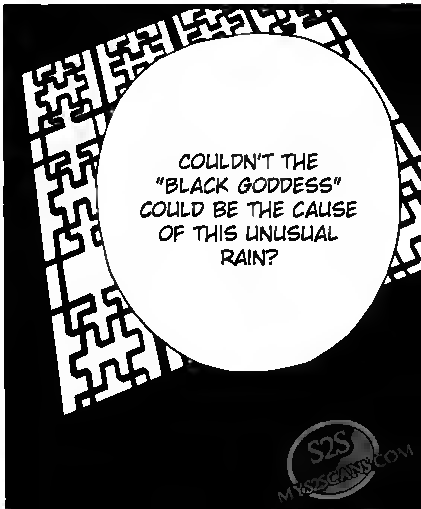
GREAT OLD MAN!!
HE CAN NO LONGER SPEAK.
AT SUCH A CRUCIAL TIME..
LIKE THAT...
10
ANIKI,
DURING AN EMERGENCY, ANIKI IS IN CHARGE.

AS THE LEADER OF CHINATOWN,
ANIKI WILL ACT IN PLACE OF THE GREAT OLD MAN IN MAKING DECISIONS ON EVERY-THING.
I-I HAVE TO MAKE ALL THE DECISIONS?
THAT'S RIGHT, ANIKI IS THE TOWN'S RUDDER





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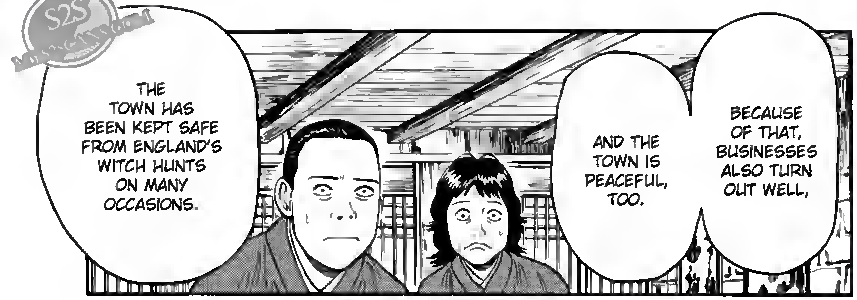
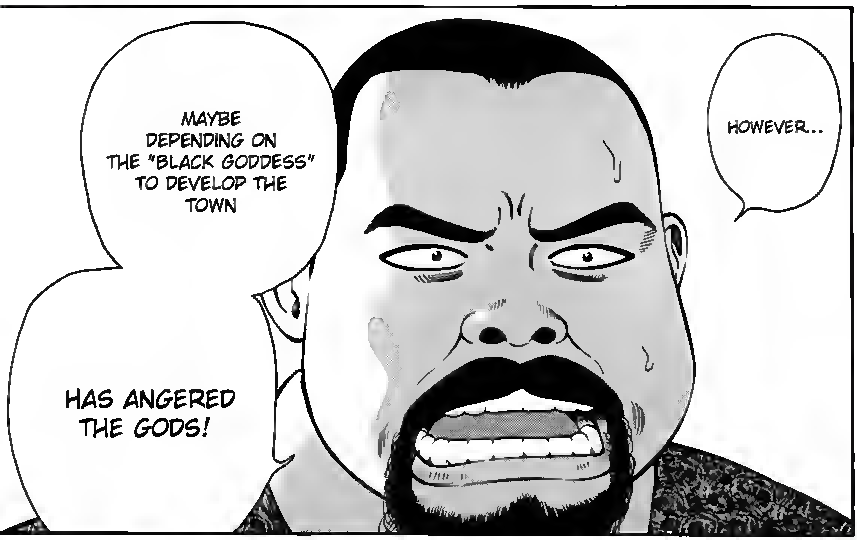

THE TOWN HAS BEEN KEPT SAFE FROM ENGLAND'S WITCH HUNTS ON MANY OCCASIONS.
AND THE TOWN IS PEACEFUL, TOO.
BECAUSE OF THAT, BUSINESSES ALSO TURN OUT WELL,


MAYBE DEPENDING ON THE "BLACK GODDESS" TO DEVELOP THE TOWN
HOWEVER...
HAS ANGERED THE GODS!

TH-THAT HAS...
CROSSED MY MIND BEFORE

IF ANIKI IS A REAL LEADER, WE DON'T NEED SOMEONE LIKE THE "BLACK GODDESS."
ANYWAY, ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE KNOW OF HER EXISTENCE.

BECAUSE OF THIS RAIN, WE HAD TO FIRE SOME OF THE EMPLOYEES,
AND THOSE PEOPLE SPOKE EVERYWHERE.
LI IS CALLED THE "BLACK GODDESS" BY BOTH THE GREAT OLD MAN AND THE TOWN MAYOR.

NO, THAT NAME HAS BECOME WELL-KNOWN ALREADY.

!?

THERE ARE THOSE WHO MAKE COMPLAINTS LIKE THAT, TOO....
"WITHOUT LI, THE TOWN MAYOR CAN'T DO ANYTHING."
15
IS NOT XIA YI, BUT LI!
THUS, THE SACRIFICE TO BE PRESENTED TO THE GODS...
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ARE YOU SAYING I CAN'T GET ANYTHING DONE BY MYSELF?
ドロ
YOU WANT TO SEND LI AWAY, TOO...
CURRENTLY THE GREAT OLD MAN IS CRITICALLY ILL...
LI FULFILLS THE CONDITIONS PERFECTLY.
I BEG FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF THE GODS FOR PRESENTING THE "BLACK GODDESS"!

THE GREAT OLD MAN ONCE SAID THIS...
17
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THIS CRISIS... ONLY THE "BLACK GODDESS" CAN SAVE US FROM THE SUFFERING!

I THINK THEY CALL HER "BLACK GODDESS"
OHH, LI HAS SUCH AN ABILITY.
WHIS PER
WHIS PER
WHIS PER
THE REASON SHE UNDERSTANDS SO MANY THINGS.
WHIS PER
WHIS PER
THAT CERTAINLY IS...
THE CAUSE OF THE GODS' WRATH!
I SEE, THAT'S THE REASON...
FOR THIS RAIN.
THERE IS NO WAY TO SAVE EVERYONE BESIDES HANDING OVER THE "BLACK GODDESS."

RETURN THE "BLACK GODDESS" TO THE GODS.
A PERSON WHO HAS SUCH AN ABILITY IS AN APPROPRIATE SACRIFICE
OUR PRAYERS WILL REACH HEAVEN, TOO.

CATASTROPHE LOOMS. WHAT IS THE FATE OF THE "BLACK GODDESS," WHO FINDS HERSELF HELPLESS AND ISOLATED...!?

7-NIN NO SHAKESPEARE
CHAPTER 7
BY HAROLD SAKUISHI

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